

Illinois National Guard

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Illinois Guard Special Forces conduct Airborne training

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Kassidy L. Snyder
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wisc. – With great weather for Airborne training, approximately 30 Special Forces (SF) Soldiers with the Illinois National Guard's Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Chicago, conducted day and night static line and military free fall operations at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Aug. 8.

Three CH-47D Chinook helicopters from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion in Peoria, Illinois, provided transportation to and from the sky for the SF Soldiers. Static line jumps were performed from roughly 1,500 feet, while free fall jumps were from 14,000 feet.

"We rarely get the occasion for night jumps and it's a great opportunity to stay proficient and keep our jumpmasters current," said Company A, 2-20th's commander.

During the night, Soldiers performed a high altitude high opening jump where they opened the parachute immediately and traveled a lateral distance of 9 kilometers to the drop zone.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kassidy L. Snyder, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

A Special Forces Soldier with the Illinois National Guard's Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Chicago, conducts a static line jump from a CH-47D Chinook from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion in Peoria, Illinois, at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Aug. 8.

182nd Security Forces return from overseas

182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

PEORIA, Ill. – Eighteen Illinois Air National Guard Security Forces Airmen with the 182nd Airlift Wing returned Aug. 4, after a seven-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Illinois Air National Guardsmen were assigned to the 405th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (ESFS) overseas, where they were responsible for law enforcement and security missions.

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SrA Jordan A.D. Sanford

Adjutant General addresses September drill reschedule

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois Army National Guard conducted a town hall-style meeting at Camp Lincoln, in Springfield, Illinois on Sept. 4 to address issues related to the postponement of September's drill training and other fiscal constraints.

The town hall was also broadcast via the internet to reach Soldiers and families who could not attend in person.

"As a traditional Guardsman for 35 years, I am well aware of how changes in drill dates and uncertainty affects many of us who depend on our drill checks, and who must balance our family life and jobs with our military commitments," said Daniel Krumrei, the Adjutant General.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kassidy L. Snyder, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

(Left) Daniel Krumrei, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, speaks to Soldiers during a town hall-style meeting at Camp Lincoln, in Springfield, Illinois, Sept. 4.

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To view Town Hall video please visit: <http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/>

VISION:

The Premier State Joint Force within the National Guard

MISSION:

The Illinois National Guard is a Joint Team of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen Ready to Help our Neighbors, Protect our State and Defend our Nation.

KEY TENETS:

Personal -- Professional
Organizational -- Ready
Responsive -- Accountable
Resilient -- Relevant



Illinois Guard supports NGAUS conference

Story by Sgt. James Sims
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHICAGO – More than 270 Soldiers and Airmen from the Illinois National Guard provided support and security to the 136th National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Conference held at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago, Aug. 22 to 25.

“This conference has given the Illinois National Guard a unique opportunity to conduct a National Special Security Event (NSSE) exercise similar to events that Illinois has been called upon in the past to participate, the most recent one being the NATO summit,” said Maj. Troy Scott of Springfield, Illinois, the deputy director of homeland security for Joint Force Headquarters.

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Story by Sgt. 1st Class Rob Fafoglia
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHICAGO – More than 3,500 people attended this year’s National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference in Chicago, Aug. 22 to 25. The conference is a yearly event aimed at focusing the nation’s attention on the needs and accomplishments of the Army and Air National Guard.

“(NGAUS) mission is to tell the story of the Guardsmen and to represent us around the nation, to let folks understand how important the Guard is to their communities, to our nation and to our respective states,” said Daniel Krumrei, the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General.

The association was created in 1878, making it the oldest military organization of its type.

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U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Todd Pendleton, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Gov. Pat Quinn speaks during the National Guard Association of the United States Conference in Chicago, Aug. 23.

18 new lieutenants swear in



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Cassidy L. Snyder, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

The Illinois Army National Guard’s 129th Regional Training Institute Officer Candidate School at Camp Lincoln in Springfield commissioned 18 Soldiers as second lieutenants during a graduation ceremony at Springfield High School, Aug. 17.

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126th Airman volunteers

Story by Senior Airman Elise Stout
126th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. – She began volunteering for the Honor Flight Project in 2012 when she was at technical training and since then, has participated in 21 Honor Flights.

Senior Airman Heather Ransom, a Public Health Technician for the 126th Medical Group attached to the 126th Air Refueling Wing, helps to organize volunteers to welcome back veterans after they have spent a day in Washington, D.C. as part of the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight program.

At approximately 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Lambert International Airport, an arrival gate is lined with service members in their dress uniforms, holding a salute while waiting for veterans.

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Army Guard faces challenges, continues accomplishments

As you are all well aware, the Illinois Army National Guard has been dealing with major changes to our training this month due to financial challenges at National Guard Bureau. The good news is Congress has approved the reprogramming of funds, so we will still be able to conduct our IDT training Sept. 27-28. Indications are Congress will also approve a Continuing Resolution soon, so we will not experience a government shutdown Oct. 1, as we did last year.



Col. Joseph Schweickert
Army Chief of Staff

I know we have already made major disruptions to your training schedules for this month and there will still be challenges with the adjusted drill dates for many of you. I appreciate everyone’s hard work.

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Support substance abuse prevention in your community!
Contact your State ARNG Alcohol and Drug Control Officer or Prevention Coordinator for more information.

October 23-31 is National Red Ribbon Week!

Ryan Henke Alcohol and Drug Control Officer Phone: (217)761-3109 Email: ryan.e.henke.ctr@mail.mil	Lisa White Prevention Coordinator Phone: (217)761-2903 Email: lisa.m.white.ctr@mail.mil	Brandi Melton Prevention Coordinator Phone: (217)761-3628 Email: brandi.a.melton.ctr@mail.mil
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Generals receive Polish Medal

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senior Illinois National Guard leaders were awarded the Gold Polish Army Award and celebrated Polish Armed Forces Day at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., Sept. 9.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Douglas Coop
Illinois National Guard

(Left to right) Brig. Gen. Jarostaw Strozyk, Polish Defense Attaché, Maj. Gen. Daniel Krumrei, the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General, Ryszard Schnepf, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, retired Maj. Gen. Dennis Celletti and Maj. Gen. William Cobetto, the Illinois National Guard Assistant Adjutant General-Air, pose for a photo during the Polish Armed Forces Day reception at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., Sept. 9.

US, Latvian TACPs join forces for Operation Northern Strike

Story by Staff Sgt. Lealan Buehrer
182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

GRAYLING, Mich. – Tactical air control party specialists (TACPs) with the 169th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) and the Latvian military joined forces August 2014 to sharpen their special operations skills during Operation Northern Strike in Grayling, Michigan.

The exercise brought the TACPs to one of the largest, most comprehensive training centers in the nation to fight as one team against insurgents while directing close-air support from the skies above them.

Air Force Master Sgt. John Oliver, a TACP with the 169th ASOS in Peoria, Illinois, had a front-row seat to the multinational unit in action. He served as the team leader for a squad of American and Latvian TACPs during a reconnaissance mission that pitted the team against enemy ambushes, explosions and small-arms gunfire.

"The training was very good. It was intense at times, which allowed for pretty realistic combat scenarios for us to run through," he said.

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U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Scott Thompson, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Master Bombardier Brandon Corbett from the Z Battery, 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and Senior Airman Justin Cuppies a Joint Tactical Air Controller from the Illinois Air National Guard 169th Air Support Operations Squadron, Peoria, Illinois, walk to the back of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for troop extraction during Operation Northern Strike 2014 near Rogers City, Michigan, Aug. 4.

BEST A12 recognized



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Aleah M. Castrejon, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers with the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A12 were recognized during a Freedom Salute Ceremony at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Aug. 16.

Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Maj. Graciela Scambiaterra**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. Maj. Sixto Lopez**
HHC, 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
- **Senior Master Sgt. Chantel Hedeman**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Jason Vallet**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Gregory Stevens**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Brock Hutzler**
135th Chemical Company
- **Staff Sgt. Daniel Michaels**
1344th Transportation Company
- **Staff Sgt. Jason Krohn**
182nd Airlift Wing

Soldiers compete in 2014 Adjutant General's match

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

MARSEILLES, Ill. – Soldiers from around the state met at the Illinois National Guard Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, Illinois, to compete in the Adjutant General's (TAG) Rifle and Pistol Match, Aug. 8 to 10.

Every unit in the Illinois National Guard had the opportunity to enter a team in the match, and more than 100 Soldiers participated in the 2014 marksmanship event.

Shooters are rated both as teams and individuals using the pistol and rifle. The shooters are also evaluated on a combined arms, 3-gun match in which the Soldiers fired the pistol, rifle and shotgun.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Aleah M. Castrejon, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers shoot the pistol during the Illinois Army National Guard Adjutant General's Rifle and Pistol Match August 8, at the Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, Illinois.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment conducts annual training**
- **Illinois Joining Forces holds Soldier immersion training**
- **CERFP trains with FSRT for real-world disasters**
- **Two transportation Soldiers recognized for accomplishments**
- **Four Illinois Soldiers graduate US Army War College**
- **404th holds Best Warrior**

The Railsplitter

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DEADLINES

Story and photo submissions are due the 1st of each month to ng.il.larng.list.staff-pao@mail.mil

The Railsplitter is the official newsletter of the Illinois National Guard authorized by the Adjutant General.

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